

03
proximal section a joint motion surface extending outward from the plate section and a stem having a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis, wherein the flared plate section includes a medial section flaring outwardly from the proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem which is greater than ninety degrees;

(b) inserting the prosthetic component into medullary cavity of the first bone such that the proximal section engages with side walls of the medullary cavity in tandem with the flared plate section engaging with a load-bearing portion of the first bone; and

(c) inserting the joint motion surface into a second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and the second bone member.

Clean Version of Amendments

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below, without prejudice:

1. (Once amended) A prosthetic component implantable into a hollow interior portion of a first bone, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongate stem means having a distal section and a proximal section, said stem means further including a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis; and support plate means having first and second opposing sides, said first side being disposed on the proximal section of the stem means and including at least one flared plate surface having a medial section, and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees.

10. (Once amended) A prosthetic component for implantation into a first bone for transferring mechanical stress between the first bone and a second bone, the first bone having a load-bearing portion and a hollow interior portion, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongated stem means having a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis, and further including opposing proximal and distal sections; and

support plate means including an at least partially non-planar first side attached to the proximal section of the stem means and an opposing second side, said first

side extending outward from said proximal section such that said first side defines at least one flared plate section having a medial section and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an undersurface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees, said second side being configured to support a means for engaging with the second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and said second bone member.

21. (Once amended) A method for replacing a joint in a patient comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a prosthetic component including a proximal section and a flared plate section flaring outward from said proximal section a joint motion surface extending outward from the plate section and a stem having a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis, wherein the flared plate section includes a medial section flaring outwardly from the proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem which is greater than ninety degrees;

A3
(b) inserting the prosthetic component into medullary cavity of the first bone such that the proximal section engages with side walls of the medullary cavity in tandem with the flared plate section engaging with a load-bearing portion of the first bone; and

(c) inserting the joint motion surface into a second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and the second bone member.

A4
25. (New) A prosthetic component implantable into a hollow interior portion of a first bone, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongate stem means having a distal section and a proximal section, said stem means further including a long axis, wherein a majority length of the stem means defines a common, non-varying radius; and

support plate means having first and second opposing sides, said first side being disposed on the proximal section of the stem means and including at least one flared plate surface having a medial section, and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms

an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees.

26. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 25, wherein said flared plate surface is flared at a greater degree of flare than a flared stem surface so as to form an angle with said flared surface of less than 180 degrees, such that said flared stem surface and said flared plate section form a unitary double-flared contact surface.

27. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 26, wherein the first side of the support plate intersects with a surface in the proximal section of the stem means forming a smooth transition which is rounded so as to be characterized by an absence of corners and points to thereby enhance the settling action of the prosthetic component into the hollow portion of the first bone.

28. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 26, wherein substantially the entire proximal section of the stem means comprises the flared stem section and wherein the first side of the support plate means comprises the flared plate section.

29. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 28, wherein the flared stem section defines a substantially conical stem surface and the flared plate section defines a substantially

conical plate surface such that unitary double-flared contact surface comprises a unitary double-cone contact surface.

30. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 26, wherein the flared plate surface forms an angle with a long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees to thereby enhance settling action of said flared plate surface against the load-bearing surface of the first bone.

31. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 25, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface extends outwardly from the proximal section of the stem means to define an overhang relative to said proximal section, said overhang having a greater length than any overhang which might extend outwardly from a lateral portion of said proximal section.

32. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 25, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means within a range between ninety degrees and one hundred twenty degrees.

33. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 25, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means within the range between ninety degrees and one hundred degrees.

34. (New) A prosthetic component implantable into a hollow interior portion of a first bone, said prosthetic component comprising:

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elongate stem means having a distal section and a proximal section, said stem means further including a long axis, wherein a distal-most portion of the proximal section is wider than a proximal-most portion of the distal section such that the distal-most portion of the proximal section and the proximal-most portion of the distal section cooperatively form a male corner therebetween, said male corner defining a boundary between said distal-most portion of the proximal section and said proximal-most portion of the distal section; and

support plate means having first and second opposing sides, said first side being disposed on the proximal section of the stem means and including at least one flared plate surface having a medial section, and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees.

35. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 34, wherein the male corner comprises an abrupt transition between the stem and the proximal body that is sufficiently abrupt in dimension and configuration to stimulate bone ingrowth, to a

greater degree than bone ingrowth occurring about the stem, when implanted within the hollow interior portion of the first bone.

36. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 34, wherein said flared plate surface is flared at a greater degree of flare than a flared stem surface so as to form an angle with said flared surface of less than 180 degrees, such that said flared stem surface and said flared plate section form a unitary double-flared contact surface.

37. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 36, wherein the first side of the support plate intersects with a surface in the proximal section of the stem means forming a smooth transition which is rounded so as to be characterized by an absence of corners and points to thereby enhance the settling action of the prosthetic component into the hollow portion of the first bone.

38. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 36, wherein substantially the entire proximal section of the stem means comprises the flared stem section and wherein the first side of the support plate means comprises the flared plate section.

39. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 38, wherein the flared stem section defines a substantially conical stem surface and the flared plate section defines a substantially

conical plate surface such that unitary double-flared contact surface comprises a unitary double-cone contact surface.

40. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 36, wherein the flared plate surface forms an angle with a long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees to thereby enhance settling action of said flared plate surface against the load-bearing surface of the first bone.

41. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 34, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface extends outwardly from the proximal section of the stem means to define an overhang relative to said proximal section, said overhang having a greater length than any overhang which might extend outwardly from a lateral portion of said proximal section.

42. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 34, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means within a range between ninety degrees and one hundred twenty degrees.

43. (New) A prosthetic component as defined in claim 34, wherein the medial section of the flared plate surface forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means within the range between ninety degrees and one hundred degrees.

44. (New) A prosthetic component implantable into a hollow interior portion of a first bone, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongate stem means having a distal section and a proximal section, said stem means further including a long axis; and

support plate means having first and second opposing sides, said first side being disposed on the proximal section of the stem means and including at least one flared plate surface having a medial section, and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees.

45. (New) A prosthetic component for implantation into a first bone for transferring mechanical stress between the first bone and a second bone, the first bone having a load-bearing portion and a hollow interior portion, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongated stem means having a long axis and further including opposing proximal and distal sections; and support plate means including an at least partially non-planar first side attached to the proximal section of the stem means and an opposing second side, said first side extending outward from said proximal section such that said first side defines at least one flared plate

section having a medial section and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an undersurface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees, said second side being configured to support a means for engaging with the second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and said second bone member.

46. (New) A method for replacing a joint in a patient comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a prosthetic component including a proximal section and a flared plate section flaring outward from said proximal section a joint motion surface extending outward from the plate section and a stem having a long axis, wherein the flared plate section includes a medial section flaring outwardly from the proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem which is greater than ninety degrees;

(b) inserting the prosthetic component into medullary cavity of the first bone such that the proximal section engages with side walls of the medullary cavity in tandem with the

Q14 flared plate section engaging with a load-bearing portion of the first bone; and

(c) inserting the joint motion surface into a second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and the second bone member.
